

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 SEC-03

JUSE-00 FTC-01 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EA-11

EUR-25 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12

SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 /190 W
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R 251551Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2557

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EIND, EMIN, TU

SUBJ: US INTERESTS IN PETROLEUM AND BORAX SECTORS IN TURKEY

REF: STATE A-10523, DECEMBER 28; ANKARA 474 (NOTAL)

1. SEPARATE TELEGRAM REPORTS OF RPP-NSP PROTOCOL INCLUDING PROVISIONS REGARDING PETROLEUM AND BORAX INDUSTRIES.

2. IN EVENT RPP-NSP COALITION GOVERNMENT SHOULD EVENTUALLY TAKE SOME ACTION AFFECTING PETROLEUM SECTOR, US INTERESTS INVOLVED WOULD BE MAINLY MOBIL. LATTER HAS 51 PERCENT INTEREST IN ATAS REFINERY AT MERSIN (WITH REMAINING SHARES HELD BY SHELL, BP, AND MSALL LOCAL TURKISH INTEREST), PETROLEUM STORAGE FACILITIES, DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS, AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CONCESSIONS WITH SOME CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION. OTHER US (OR POSSIBLY US) COMPANIES WHICH HAVE HELD PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CONCESSIONS IN PAST FEW YEARS INCLUDE GULF, ASHLAND, ALADDIN MIDDLE EAST, LUCKY OIL CO, NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL, PANOIL,
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TRANSWORLD OIL, SCURRY RAINBOW, WOODS MIDDLE EAST.

(SOME OF THESE MAY POSSIBLY ALREADY HAVE RELINQUISHED CONCESSIONS OR SUSPENDED OPERATIONS DUE TO LACK OF FAVORABLE RESULTS AS WELL AS POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES DURING PAST FEW YEARS.)

3. INFORMATION ABOUT VALUE OF US INVESTMENTS IN PETROLEUM SECTOR IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY FROM LOCAL SOURCES BECAUSE OF PAST SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATE BETWEEN DOLLAR AND LIRA. BEST INFORMATION WE HAVE SUGGESTS THAT TOTAL US INVESTMENT IN ALL ASPECTS OF PETROLEUM SECTOR IS OVER 100 MILLION DOLLARS WITH MOBIL ACCOUNTING FOR POSSIBLY TWO-THIRDS OF THIS. MOBIL REPRESENTATIVE ANKARA HAS PROMISED ASSEMBLE AND PROVIDE US WITH MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF MIBIL SITUATION. FYI ONLY. HE IS WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY BUT HAS ADOPTED "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE, REFERRING TO PREVIOUS PROPOSALS TO NATIONALIZE INDUSTRY WHICH WERE NOT CARRIED OUT. END FYI.

4. IN BORAX SECTOR, US INTERESTS MAY POSSIBLY BE INVOLVED INDIRECTLY THROUGH CONNECTIONS WITH RIO TINTO ZINC (RTZ) WHICH HOLDS IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS IN TURKEY. (ANKARA A-165, SEPTEMBER 21, 1973 REPORTED EARLIER ON CONTINUING PROPOSALS FOR NATIONALIZATION OF BORAX SECTOR AND CRITICISMS OF RTZ IN PARTICULAR.)

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